

Weather

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ships/ Page 2**

Friday
July 27, 2001
Vol 2, No7

Trooper Hill

Published for the servicemembers supporting the 2001 National Scout Jamboree

Navy drill team gives sharp performance

Story and photo by Spc. Briana G. Wright
319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

With crisp white uniforms as sharp as the bayonets on their weapons, the U.S. Navy Drill Team wowed the Scouts with an eye-catching performance of precision drill.

The drill team's 23 members performed at the jamboree in an effort to promote the Navy to the Boy Scouts of America.

"We go out to different places and perform to advertise the Navy to people that don't usually get to see it," said Navy Seaman John W. Thompson, acting lead seaman of the drill team.

The drill team is one of four units within the Ceremonial Guard. To become a member, one must meet or exceed 6 feet in height for males and 5 feet 10 inches for females, excel in mental and physical stamina throughout boot camp, pass a background check and go through an interview. Of the four units, the drill team requires an additional skill.

"The drill team is probably the hardest to get into because it requires real good hand-eye coordination," said Thompson.

To get into the drill team, one must complete a lengthy training phase full of eight-hour drills, six days a week for two months in order to learn the basics.

"It takes a while to learn, but it's a lot of fun," Thompson said.

Although drilling is their specialty, they're not limited to just that.

"Of course drilling is my favorite, but I've done United Nations arrivals up in New York, inaugurations and lots of ceremonies at the White House," said Seaman Michael D. Riley, assistant leading seaman for the team.

Thompson, a former Scout from Westpoint, Miss., recalls coming to the jamboree when he was younger. As he looks around and sees



Members of the Navy Drill Team wow spectators by performing a rifle-tossing routine around a Scout.

the many Scouts together, he notices the bonds that are forming.

"I think it's good for the Scouts. It lets them interact with different people from different states, and it gives them something to do," he said.

Thirteen-year-old Andy Rauchut, a Scout from Nebraska, shares his experience of being part of a drill stunt.

"It was amazing. When they almost stabbed me with the knife, I was kind of scared, but it was really cool. I enjoyed it a lot," Rauchut said.

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Field artillery unit returns to Dark Ages



Photo by Spc. LaTorry D. Sidney

Staff Sgt. Michael R. Balis Jr., a writer/observer with the 30th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Sill, Ok., attempts to adjust the team's medieval crossbow display.

By Spc. LaTorry D. Sidney
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

In the days of old, armies relied on simple machines to hurl objects such as stones or arrows long distances in the attempt to overpower enemy forces. Though it may not have been obvious at the time, machinery of this sort would evolve to become what is known today as field artillery.

Today, highly trained artillery specialists use modern technology, but apply the same

basic concept to emerge victorious on the battlefield. Proof of this can be found in the field artillery display at the Army Adventure Area here, where examples of artillery from past and present can be found for the duration of the National Scout Jamboree.

To give Scouts an idea of what soldiers of the past may have used, members of the 30th Field Artillery Regiment from Fort Sill, Ok., assembled a medieval crossbow as a part of the display.

"This is a good example of an ancient

artillery piece," said Staff Sgt. Cornell D. Braud, a howitzer section chief with the 30th. According to Braud, it would have been easy to simulate live fire, but the crossbow is more interactive.

The crossbow, which was constructed primarily of wood and elastic straps, is used to symbolize "the rough beginnings of field artillery," according to Staff Sgt. Michael R. Balis, Jr., a writer/developer with the 30th.

Scouts are able to use the crossbow by launching a golf ball into a pre-determined area.

As an example of more recent field artillery, the 30th has the Paladin fighting vehicle on display.

According to display information, the Paladin is operated by four crewmembers; driver, section chief, gunner, and assistant gunner. The vehicle is 35 feet long, 12 feet high, and 13 feet wide.

The Paladin boasts a 440-horsepower diesel turbine engine, and can move at speeds up to 45 miles per hour with a cruising range of 186 miles when fueled to capacity.

With a highly developed weapons system, it can fire a variety of ammunition from highly explosive rounds to concrete-piercing missiles.

Scouts who visit the display are able to climb into and through the hatch of the Paladin. A tactical vehicle training video was also added to showcase the latest in field artillery advances.

"I think the Scouts enjoyed the display," said Balis. "It gives (Scouts) the tools to decide whether or not they want to enter the service."

Safety Thoughts

- More women would use seatbelts if they were made of mink.
- You may grow old or careless- take your choice.
- Weaving is a pain, stay in your lane.
- Hitch horse-sense to horse-power.
- If all else fails, read the directions!
- The next chance you take may be your last.

Trooper Hill

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Photo by Sgt. Samuel McLarty

Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Lynd, a deep-sea diver from Norfolk, Va., teaches John Banfield, a Boy Scout from Troop 1118, Cincinnati, Oh., about the lighter side of deep-sea diving.

Drive and Dive teams help Navy salvage ships, time, money

By Sgt. Samuel McLarty
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Sometimes a ship can't be brought to the dock for the repairs it needs. That's OK. Today's Navy can bring the dock to the ship.

Servicemembers and Scouts were given a special treat near the scuba pools at the 2001 National Scout Jamboree this week. On display was one of only three Navy Drive and Dives, a mobile dive and repair center on wheels. The 15-foot bus contained equipment used to repair ships while they're in the water.

"It's very expensive and very time consuming to put a ship in dry dock," said Bob Kilpatrick, performance manager in the office of the Supervisor of Navy Diving and Salvage. "Even moving the equipment used to repair ships is expensive. Normally it takes several trucks to deliver the equipment, plus cranes to load and unload. It's a logistical nightmare."

"When we built this system we wanted to use existing equipment

and put it into a package that would best serve this particular mission of underwater ship husbandry," said Kilpatrick. "These guys can get underwater and do the same job they do in dry dock in a fraction of the time at a fraction of the cost."

With all panels and doors closed, the Navy Drive and Dive looks much like any other big white bus. But looks can be deceiving. Inside is an impressive collection of equipment.

The Drive and Dive contains an air system called a Fly Away Dive System 3 and is capable of supporting three divers to a depth of 190 feet with air or mixed gas for dives deeper than 130 feet. The FADS3 are commonly used for ship repair missions but are normally transported on trucks. The Drive and Dive has other features not commonly attached to FADS3 system, such as a Divers Underwater Camera System.

DUCS uses cameras attached to the divers for archiving important dives and to give people on the surface a front-row view. The Drive and Dive also has onboard electric generators, compressors, a hydraulic power unit, a hot water heater and repair tools.

"Basically we send them everything they need except lunch," said Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Lynd, a deep-sea diver from Norfolk, Va.

When the Drive and Dive takes on a mission it normally takes a team of six or seven people including two drivers and a standby, two hose tenders to assist the divers, a communications and logs person and a diving supervisor. Although all are specialized, each member is cross-trained for all other jobs on the team, said Lynd.

Kilpatrick said Navy Drive and Dive teams have saved the Navy millions of dollars in the last few years.

The equipment in the Drive and Dive has been used successfully for many years, but has always been cumbersome and difficult to deliver to some places. "All this equipment existed and has been used for awhile. But before the Drive and Dive we never had it nicely packaged together like this."

Kilpatrick said the Drive and Dives have been in operation about five years. The unit on display at the jamboree is from Norfolk, Va. One is stationed at the Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity in Mayport, Fla., and another is stationed at the Consolidated Batteries Unit in San Diego, Calif.

Kilpatrick said that the Dive and Drive is handling a dual role at the jamboree. Its primary role is to back up the FADS3 that are charging the tanks for the scuba pools. But, he said there's a secondary mission that's almost as important as the first.

"Even though it's not our official mission here, it's a good tool for recruiting Navy divers," said Kilpatrick. "There are a lot of Army and Coast Guard guys that are here specifically to recruit. I'm not from a recruiting command. That's not what I'm here for, but if we can get the Scouts excited about diving... Great! We always need Navy divers."

"That's one thing we love to do - get them excited about the equipment and what we do."

Fort A.P. Hill Chaplain Services

- Sunday Collective Services ... July 22, 29 and August 5; 11 a.m. until Noon ... Building 1652
- Bible Study and Fellowship every Wednesday 730 p.m. until 830 p.m ... Building 1653

- Counseling Session ... Noon until 3 p.m. ... Chaplain's Office ... Building 1653, phone number 8631
- Pastoral Care Available ... 24 hours a day, seven days a week

Gee-whiz technology helps medics help you

By Sgt. Eric Barker

300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Scouts entering the medical portion of the Army Adventure Area gained a new perspective on the Army, one that they might never have been exposed to if not for their participation in the National Scout Jamboree.

The Scouts were given the opportunity to work on their lifesaver merit badge and at the same time learn about new telemedicine equipment and procedures used in the Army.

"Nowadays kids are into computers and stuff. These scouts are seeing that the Army is leading the country in technology. They don't see that back home. They are learning that the Army is the gateway to computers and communication," explained Command Sgt. Maj. (retired) Curtis W. Callender, project officer with Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center, Fort Detrick, Md..

One of the more popular displays in the medical section was the Med-Cam. Med-Cam is an integrated wireless lightweight system that provides quality video, audio and data communications between remotely located field personnel, such as medics and other highly-trained specialists.

"The original purpose of the Med-Cam was for front-line medics, so that medics could be mentored by a doctor back at the battalion aid station. The images are sent via microwave," said Callender.

Telemedicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) has fulfilled 240 medical consults from February 1993 to February 1996 in support of simultaneous medical missions in Somalia, Croatia, Macedonia, Germany, Haiti, the Ivory Coast, Egypt, Panama, Kuwait, Italy, Kenya and the Virgin Islands across the complete spectrum of medical specialties, according to the WRAMC Telemedicine website.

The equipment has been put to use in life-threatening situations.

"There was an officer in Antarctica who needed surgery. But the only doctor available was a general practitioner. He was able to diagnose but was not qualified to do the necessary surgery. They connected with Walter Reed and the doctor was able to complete the mastectomy. Today that soldier is alive because of telemedicine," explained Callender.

As the day ends, you can see Mick

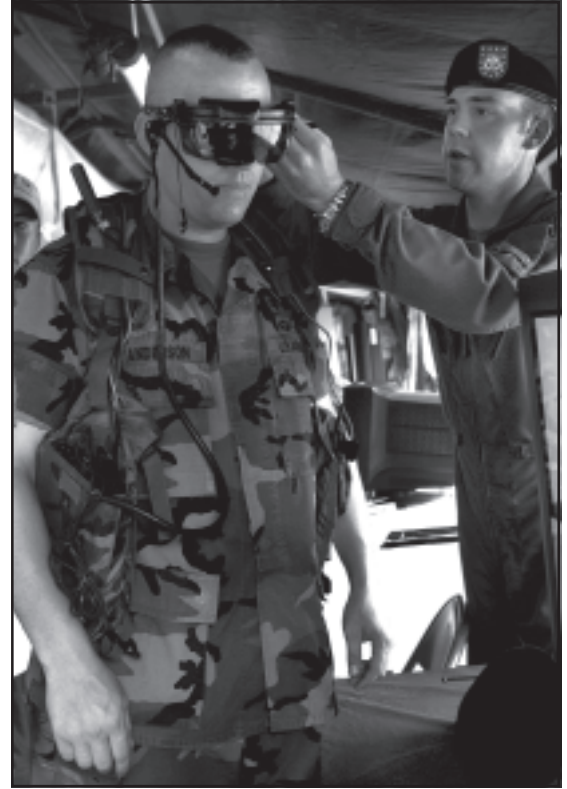


Photo by Sgt. Eric C. Barker

Staff Sgt. Robert Anderson, medical operations NCOIC, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Fort Detrick, Md., gets assistance donning the Med-Cam from Spc. Caleb J. Mick, combat medic, USAMRIID, at Med-Cam at the medical tent in the Army Adventure Area at the National Scout Jamboree.

talking to a Scout with a smile across his face. Participants were introduced to the Army of today and given a glimpse of the Army of tomorrow.

Marines maintain commitment, values

By Spc. LaTorry D. Sidney

300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

What is the true meaning of commitment? The dictionary defines commitment as "a pledge to do something, or the state of being bound emotionally or intellectually to an ideal or course of action." However, some Marine Corps volunteers that work in the Scoutopia area here, strive to ensure that, for those attending the National Scout Jamboree, it means a little more.

"We have the opportunity to do two things we love," said Col. Garry W. Lewis, commanding officer for Marine Air Control Group 48, "which are working with Scouts and serving in the Marines."

The Marine Corps joined forces with the Order of the Arrow, a Boy Scouts of America organization, to provide Scouts with the presentation geared toward instilling values in today's youth. According to Lewis, the Marines are here to augment and support what the Scouts are doing.

"Basically, we're here to spread the word of honor and commit-

ment, and to motivate the (Scouts)," said Sgt. Damien L. Villanova, a member of the Pittsburgh Marine Recruiting Station, out of Pittsburgh, Pa.

In addition to other Scoutopia activities, the Scouts are given an hour-long presentation on values and commitment. Subsequently, they are asked to pledge themselves to the values that are embodied by both the Boy Scouts and the Marine Corps.

"We want to get the Scouts to commit themselves to do something positive for themselves or for others," said Villanova.

Afterwards, the Scouts are able to sign a wall, called the "Wall of Commitment". The wall is a physical symbol of their commitment to maintain the values that have gotten them to this level, according to Villanova.

The hard work and dedication of the Marines pleased Carey J. Mignerey, a councilman for the Order of the Arrow in Roswell, Ga. "I think the Marines are dedicated to honor, duty, and commitment, which are some of the values the Scouts live by," he said. "They're a good example of the type of people Scouts should grow to be."

Soldier gives his all in support of jamboree

Story by Spc. Briana G. Wright
319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

No one can tell you better than Sgt. 1st Class Juan L. Carrillo, network administrator with Headquarters First U.S. Army, Fort Gillem, Ga. Carrillo, in support of the military personnel involved in the National Scout Jamboree, who is responsible for all the network connectivity from Fort Gillem and any problems that may arise with connecting computers.

"Any computer problems a user is having, I try to go there, help them out, get reconnected and give them a little brief-up of what to do

next time if they see this," Carrillo said.

According to Carrillo, his job also includes making sure printers are working and that Internet and e-mail access is available. Most people do not see the man behind the mission, but the service he provides is beneficial for the servicemembers as well as for saving the Army money.

"If I wasn't here, they'd probably have to hire contracting support from the outside for network installation," he said. Maintaining the system has kept Carrillo so busy that he hasn't had a day off since arriving on July 11.

"At the time, I didn't have any help, so I couldn't afford to take a day off," Carrillo said. Despite the absence of down-time, Carrillo has kept the unit's mission in mind and realizes the importance of supporting the jamboree.

"It's a great event. Hopefully, I'll get some time to pop in and go see stuff because they have some interesting attractions I would like to go see," he said.

Carrillo unselfishly stays behind to hold down the "fort". The work schedule does not permit him to see the jamboree, but he will definitely allow his soldiers to, said Carrillo. While others may be able to relax after duty hours, Carrillo is on the job making sure that the computer needs of this operation are met.

When duty calls, Carrillo answers. "I'm on call 24 hours a day and I won't stop until the job is done," Carrillo said.



Photo by Spc. Brianna G. Wright

Sgt. 1st Class Juan L. Carrillo, Headquarters First U.S. Army, Fort Gillem, Ga., helps set up a computer network for the jamboree.

Word Search

Trooper on the Hill

D R T S A O C K E T A N I M A T N O C E D E O Q T
E M E C R O F S R I C P N O I T A R C F P G L S Z
T A I D A P A N R A K A C L A N O I T A N A I N A
S C L H N L A M O R T O V C H O S P I T A L K O I
I H U O U A O V O I M I I A T T A Y Z C A F K I R
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Y R E L L I T R A D T E J Q B A E P I F E O R O N
K E L I E U T E N A N T R E U G U S L L N M T O E
M A C H I N E L I M A A R S R E S Q I A T P A P S
E T A V I R P N H O N O R E H I B B G S U A P E P
M A S T E R E C R U I T S A O I O E M O R N T R M
L A N G I S Y E K S I H W N G M P S C U E Y V A N

ADVENTURE	COMMANDO	INTEGRITY	OSCAR
AIRBORNE	COMPANY	JET	PAD
AIRMOBILE	COOK	JOURNALIST	PATRIOT
ALPHA	CORPORAL	JULIET	PFC
AMERICA	C-RATION	KILO	PRIVATE
ARMOR	DECONTAMINATE	K-RATION	QUANTICO
ARMY	DELTA	LATRINE	QUEBEC
ARTILLERY	DUTY	LEADERSHIP	RECRUIT
AVIATION	ENLISTED	LIEUTENANT	RESPECT
BERET	FORCE	LIMA	ROMEO
BOOT	FORMATION	MACHETTE	SALUTE
BRADLEY	FOXTROT	MACHINE	SERGEANT
CAMOU-	FRAGMENTATION	MARINES	SIGNAL
FLAGE	GARAND	MASTER	TEAMWORK
CAPTAIN	GENERAL	MISSION	TROOPER
CAVALRY	GENERATOR	MOBILE	UNIFORM
CHARLIE	GUN	NATIONAL	VICTOR
CHOW	HONOR	NAVY	WHISKEY
COAST	HOSPITAL	NOVEMBER	WINNER
COMMANDER	HOTEL	OFF	

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Animal docs teach merit badge skills

By Staff Sgt. Pat Johnston
319th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

"Hey shut off that disgusting video. I've been listening about ticks engorged with blood and worms crawling in and out of intestines all morning. It's sickening," yelled the Scout counselor peeking around the corner from an adjoining merit badge station.

The wide smile that broke over his face indicated he was just kidding. He waved and strode back to his fingerprinting merit badge station.

The topics being discussed at this jamboree station may not be dinnertime conversation, but words like these describe the realities of veterinary science. Boy Scouts avidly line up to schedule appointments for that afternoon or the next day to go through the training and testing for the veterinary merit badge.

"The maximum number of Scouts that we can certify is about 675," said Capt. Anne Hessinger, Mid-Atlantic District Veterinary Command. By the second day of the jamboree, Hessinger and her fellow soldiers were certifying at capacity, 12 Scouts an hour. Scouts will have to make an appointment soon if they want to be sure to add this popular badge to their collection.

The veterinary medicine station catches the attention of all merit badge midway visitors. Vivid posters about animal diseases and parasites hang behind two microscopes

set up with blood-sample slides, jars containing: a horse eyeball, a small animal fetus and 12-inch parasitic worms. Bones from horse legs, skulls from cats and horses rest on tables. The parasite-video machine sits on a table at one end of the station while a cage at the other end houses kittens. Hessinger's greyhound lies on a large pillow behind the animal-examining table. It's a mini vet school at one end, a veterinarian's office at the other.

This arrangement accommodates one of the special requirements of the badge. According to Hessinger, a critical requirement of the veterinary merit badge is to spend as much time with a veterinarian as possible. "We're trying to show them a little bit about what veterinarians do," said Hessinger. That would include lab work and blood work, physical exams and restraining of uncooperative patients. This actual interaction with a veterinarian makes it possible to fulfill all requirements for the badge at the jamboree.

The test-able portions of the exam include zoonotic diseases, bacteria, viruses, parasites, life cycles of parasites and normal animal husbandry.

Although the test is open book, the Scouts are taking it very seriously.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Pat Johnston

Spc. Rosa Rodriguez, Mid-Atlantic District Veterinary Command, assists Boy Scouts working on the veterinarian merit badge.

The test usually takes only 15 minutes to complete, but jamboree Scouts are taking 20 to 25 minutes as they carefully draw detailed life cycle diagrams for ticks, lungworms and roundworms.

"They are very smart kids," said Spc. Rosa Rodriguez, Mid-Atlantic District Veterinary Command animal care specialist. "I tell them to look in the book, and they just go ahead and look in the index and the contents," said Rodriguez.

Hessinger grades all of the tests. She tells a few Scouts to "Look this up more," according to Rodriguez, but most Scouts turn in their exams like they were applying for vet school where the acceptance rate is less than 10 percent.

Hessinger credits her first try acceptance to the University of Pennsylvania Vet School to working with veterinarians when she was growing up. For some jamboree Scouts their 20-minute talk with Hessinger may encourage them to do the same.

That 20 minutes with an Army veterinarian may give them the confidence to pursue an exciting and rewarding career path.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Pat Johnston

Capt. Anne Hessinger, Mid-Atlantic District Veterinary Command, shows Boy Scouts how to safely treat an "upset" cat using a cat bag.

The Information Board

July 28, 2001

Cannon, 7:30 to 9:15 a.m. Daily Ceremony

214th Ground Forces Band, 9 to 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to Noon Army Adventure Area

82nd Airborne Chorus, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Army Adventure Area and *2 to 3 p.m.* Stage Show

USA Drill Team, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Stage Show and *3 to 3:30 p.m.* Army Adventure Area

319th Army Band, 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Heth Dining Hall and *2 to 3 p.m.* Army Adventure Area

Atlantic Fleet Band (Rock Band) 12:30 to 1:30 Stage Show and *Atlantic Fleet Band (Show Band) 7:15 to 9 p.m.* Stage Show

85th Division Band, 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. International Stage and *4 to 5 p.m.* Army Adventure Area

USAF Stars Jump Team, 3 to 3:30 p.m. Stage Show and *5:50 to 6:10 p.m.* Arena Show

Army Balloon, 5:15 p.m. Arena Show

Navy Atlantic Fleet Band, 6:00 p.m. Western Region

USMC Drum and Bugle Corps, 6:30 to 6:50 p.m. Arena Show

USAF Dixie Players, 6:50 to 7:10 p.m. Arena Show

Herald Trumpets, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Arena Show

The United States Army Band, 7 to 8 p.m. Arena Show

The Armed Forces Color Guard, 7 to 8 p.m. Arena Show

U.S. Navy F-18 Flyover, 7:30 p.m. Arena Show

Crossfire Rock and Roll Band, 8:01 to 8:30 p.m. Arena Show

July 29, 2001

Cannon, 7:30 to 9:15 a.m. Daily Ceremony

USAF ACC Brass Quintet, 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. Daily Ceremony

82nd Airborne Chorus, 7:30 to 9:15 a.m. Daily Ceremony, *3 to 3:30 p.m.* Army Adventure Area and *10:09 to 10:23 p.m.* Arena Show

85th Division Band, 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Heth Dining Hall, *12:30 to 1:15 p.m.* Longstreet Dining Hall and *5:25 p.m.* Northeast Region

214th Ground Forces Band, 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. International Stage and *5:10 p.m.* Southern Region

319th Army Band, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Army Adventure Area and *5:50 p.m.* Central Region

Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. Stage Show, *4 to 4:30 p.m.* Army Adventure Area and *6:10 to 6:30 p.m.* Arena Show

Important Times

DFAC ... Wilcox

Breakfast ... 5:30 to 8 a.m.

Lunch ... Box lunch picked up at breakfast

Dinner ... 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Swing Shift ... 11:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

PX ... Wilcox

Monday through Saturday ... 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sunday ... 2 to 7 p.m.

SICK CALL ... Wilcox

Daily ... 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Swimming Pool ... HQ Area

Monday through Friday ... Noon to 8 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday ... 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Remember to Drink Water!

Sea Scouts sail into jambo

By **Spc. Yves-Marie J. Casimir**
210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The crew of the Jamboree Ship works hard to tie knots between the Coast Guard and Sea Scouts.

Six hundred "ships" (Sea Scout units) come together to form the Jamboree Ship here at Merit Badge Midway, where Cmdr. Everett F. Rollins, Coast Guard Air Station Clear water, FL., helps meet and greet Scouts as they visit the Sea Scout exhibit.

The exhibit helps people learn what Sea Scouts are about.

It also informs Scouts on "what they would do if they became a Sea Scout. We maintain a list of where units exist so they would know where to get in touch with a local representative," said Rollins.

Rollins has spent the last year of his 26-year military career working with the Sea Scouts.

"The reason the Coast Guard is supporting Sea Scouts is because their aims are similar to missions of the Coast Guard, specifically tasks having to do with boating safety, maritime skills, and boat handling. These are things that Sea Scouting teaches," said Rollins.

"Everything that we've learned here (as a Sea Scout) in the nautical aspect is very similar to that of the Coast Guard. We've also learned a lot of leadership and communication skills," said Cadet Third Class Gary Butler, who is majoring in Mechanical Engineering at the Virginia Military Institute.

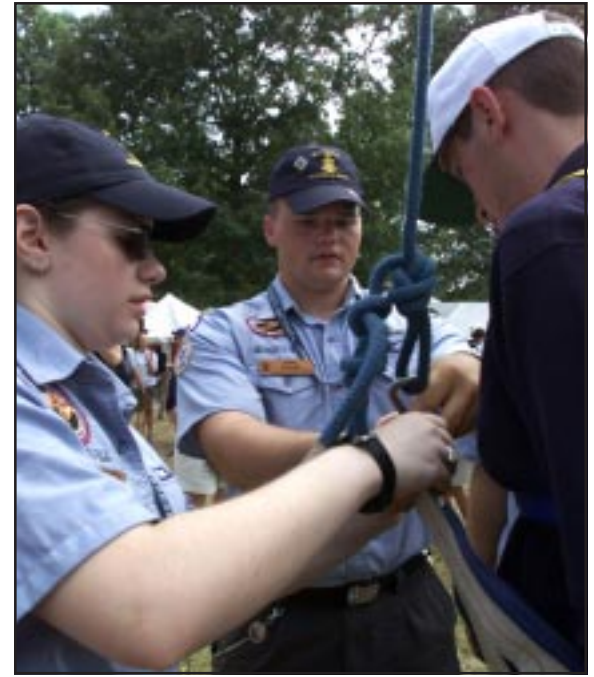


Photo Spc. Yves-Marie J. Casimir

Scouting out the high ground...



Photo by Spc. Elizabeth Casebeer

Sgt. Michael W. Baker, a recruiter out of Fort Leavenworth, Ks., watches as Jeff Maher, Troop 118, Hanover, Pa., climbs the wall.

As the Jamboree Ship's Bosun, Butler serves as a youth leader, supported by Boatswain's Mate, 17-year-old Cristyn Johnson, Ship 361, Columbia, Md.

The two have been involved with the Sea Scouts since the age of 14.

Youth leaders "are the link between Sea Scouts and the Boy Scouts. The Scouts who come to the exhibit can see a real Sea Scout and talk to them about what they really do. It's a lot easier to make that link from youth to youth," said Rollins.

Butler and Johnson share their Sea Scout experiences and future goals to inquisitive Scouts.

"My first step into the military was through Sea Scouts. As far as things like drill, and marching in parades and ceremonies, Sea

Sea Scouts Cristyn Johnson, Ship 361, and Cadet 3rd Class Gary Butler, Virginia Military Institute, help strap in Craig McLemoore, Japanese / America Youth Exchange program, as they prepare to launch him up the tower, one of several interactive exhibits near their tent.

Scouting helped me so that when I went to VMI, I wasn't absolutely clueless," said Cutler.

As a high school senior, Johnson recognizes the influence that the Sea Scouts has had on her life.

"It's helped me to make better and smarter decisions. We (Ship 361) do a lot of classes through the Coast Guard. They help us out with boating safety and things as far as getting in the water. Now I'm thinking about possibly getting involved in the Coast Guard or Coast Guard auxiliary," said Johnson.

By the Sea Scouts working so closely with the Coast Guard, Scouts are introduced to the service and gain a better understanding of what role the military can play in their future.

Sea Scouts has a very unique and specific program for advancement, which in many ways resembles the rank structure of the Coast Guard.

"Sea Scout advancement is based on maritime traditions, maritime activities, and skill level," said Billings.

As an incentive program, the Coast Guard offers enlisting members accelerated advancement. Higher-ranked Scouts enter the service at a higher grade than those with little or no Sea Scouting experience.

Their presence at Merit Badge Midway may inspire a future sailor and get more Scouts involved in another exciting program.